



Miller Highlights

July 2010

Impact of Excess Rain in Eastern Iowa

Many areas have received double the normal rainfall or more from April 22 until early July. This excess rain has created a series of issues including untimely herbicide applications, unavailable or lost nitrogen, shallow root development, favorable initial disease development, and extra weed development. It has also made it difficult to get alfalfa established and to make quality hay in a timely fashion.

Nitrogen

For the third year in a row, the single most limiting factor in many corn fields, is having adequate nitrogen (N) to develop normal plants and properly fill the grain. Since we had snow cover preventing a deep-freeze in our soil last winter, compaction areas are magnified this year and those areas prevented good root development while they stayed saturated longer and lost more N. In some cases, nitrogen applied as a side-dress application has not remedied the situation in wet or compacted areas because the lack of oxygen has prevented roots to grow to the nitrogen or N was lost due to denitrification. It is obvious that some corn will not recover and produce well even with additional N applied as a foliar feed or dribbled on with a highboy sprayer, but in many cases it may still be worth trying. Even the corn which looks good from the windshield may benefit, as it is often depleting N from the lower leaves (firing) to feed the rest of the plant. I suggest leaving test strips of untreated corn when applying N this late in the season, so you can understand the effect of this additional nitrogen. It is a great time to take aerial pictures to understand possible long term solutions such as additional tile or deep tillage. When applying late N, care needs to be taken to keep N off of active corn silks.

Insects

We have observed some refuge corn fields that must have had threshold levels of first generation European Corn Borer. This suggests there may be value in applying an insecticide (such as Warrior[®]) in refuge corn if you are also applying fungicide or at least scout for second generation European corn borer eggs in non-CB hybrids. Miller Hybrids again has adult corn rootworm beetle traps to allow you to see the corn rootworm pressure you have in your fields. Contact Miller Hybrids immediately, if you would like to participate in this monitoring program or if you want help with root digs to evaluate feeding damage you have experienced.

Diseases

Due to the warm, wet conditions, Grey Leaf Spot and Common Rust are starting to show up in significant amounts and may warrant treatment. I would suggest the use of foliar fungicides on fields where it appears you have excellent yield potential, especially in continuous corn situations. I would at least recommend doing some field research where all variables are the same except for the treatment of fungicide. I have not seen evidence to suggest early application of fungicide and we still recommend spraying at or post brown silk (R1 or R2), as you only receive 14 to 21 days protection from new infection on the leaves. If you have significant disease on the ear leaf or above, at the time of spraying, it may pay to add a triazole (a curative such as Tilt[®] or a similar generic) to the preventative fungicide, strobilurin (Headline[®] or similar products). However, previous data I am aware of has not shown a significant favorable response to adding a triazole.



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Herbicides

This year in many cases there may be a need to respray to completely control tough weeds such as giant ragweed and waterhemp, as Ignite[®] or Glyphosate (“Roundup[®] type”) herbicides sprayed early when weeds were not actively growing, due to cold and or excessively wet conditions, were not always totally effective. Also, if weeds got out of control and complete leaf coverage with herbicide did not occur, some regrowth of weeds occurred and the wet conditions have favored a lot of late weed emergence. Spraying now without drop nozzles can lead to serious crop injury and you are off label for many herbicides. Application with a highboy of Status[®] or 2,4-D type products over the top after brown silk, may be your best option at this point, and in many cases you could use appropriate herbicides to clean weeds at field edges with a 4-wheeler. About the only grass control left would be to use drops with something like Option[®], Ignite[®] on LL Corn, or Glyphosate (Roundup[®] chemistry) on GT or RR corn. Spraying during pollination is not recommended.

New Products

Miller Hybrids is launching several new hybrids for the 2011 planting season including M56-67BRG, which is an exciting new 105 day Agrisure[®] 3000GT and M67-85BR which is a unique top yielding 111 day Agrisure CBLRW hybrid. M57-51 (107 day) and M63-59 (109 day), which are 2 key newer products in the Miller Hybrids portfolio will be offered for the first time as Agrisure 3000GT products.

Alfalfa

Miller Hybrids’ has a great alfalfa portfolio including the new branch-rooted hybrid MA375HY/BR which has excelled in the wet and dry conditions. Miller Hybrids msSunstra[®] thin-stemmed, leafy hybrid alfalfa varieties dry fast, especially if tethered, and have fast regrowth to allow recutting in about 24 days. Alfalfa prefers drier weather than we have had and if there are questions about your alfalfa, please contact us.

Pallet Returns

Call us to arrange pick-up of any pallets which we may have left in your storage sheds, or return them to Gringer AG at 2144 Old Hwy 218 South, Iowa City. We have not been able to get to some of your places to pick up these pallets yet, but will do so if you tell us where they are stored. Many of our pallets did not have our name on them, but we kept track of who received them and will invoice for unreturned pallets.

New Office and Warehouse Planned for Miller Hybrids this Summer

Due to expanded sales and research, Miller Hybrids plans to build a new headquarters near Kalona, Iowa. This building will include offices, a meeting room, a research work area, machinery storage and seed storage. The wet weather hasn’t helped our start, but mark your calendars for an open house on September 16, 2010.

Call Chad Gillam 319-330-8021 or Bob Miller 319-325-6158 to help you decide on nitrogen, disease or insect management ideas to **maximize your profit**. We always enjoy interacting with you about your farming operation and looking at your fields. We have a great referral program which provides seed credit to you for each unit sold to a referred prospect and would appreciate any leads and referrals. Thanks for your comments to our customer survey and please return them if you haven’t responded yet, so we can serve you better.

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